

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01606 170803Z

20

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 170700Z SEP 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2411

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, CVIS, CH

SUBJECT: PEKING CONSULTATIONS BY CONGEN OFFICERS

REF: A. PEKING 9889; B. STATE 203867

1. USLO FULLY SUPPORTS CONGEN RECOMMENDATION THAT AGRICULTURAL OFFICER CHAMPEAU BE THE NEXT SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER FOR WHOM WE REQUEST OFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS. SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL NOT ONLY FOR REASONS CITED REF A, BUT ALSO FOR IMPROVING COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURAL REPORTING BETWEEN USLO AND HONG KONG.

2. AS REGARDS TIMING OF VISIT, HERE WE FACE SOMETHING OF A DILEMMA. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO SEE ANOTHER REQUEST HARD ON HEELS OF MCCALL VISIT, SINCE WE WANT TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE THINK THE FLOODGATES ARE NOW OPEN FOR MORE OR LESS CONSTANT FLOW OF OFFICERS BETWEEN PEKING AND HONG KONG. CHINESE HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY ARE SENSITIVE TO THIS CONCEPT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CHAMPEAU'S TRAVELLING DURING THE HARVEST SEASON. SINCE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION JUST BEFORE OCTOBER 1 IS PROBABLY BAD TIMING, WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT APPROACH PRCLO AS SOON AFTER THAT DATE AS POSSIBLE, INDICATING THAT CHAMPEAU WOULD LIKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BEGIN TRAVELLING IN MID-OCTOBER. THIS WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL

BONUS OF VISIT TO CANTON FAIR.

3. WE ALSO CONCUR WITH CONGEN THAT HOWARTH REQUEST FOR PRIVATE VISIT BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL WE HAVE CLEARER PICTURE OF CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARD OFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS. IN OUR VIEW, LINE BETWEEN OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE TRAVEL BY U.S. OFFICIALS IS PROBABLY NOT AS CLEAR FOR CHINESE AS IT MAY BE FOR US. IN CASE OF DAVID DEAN, FOR EXAMPLE, WE WERE TURNED DOWN BOTH FOR OFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS AND FOR A PRIVATE VISIT. EVEN IF WE CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR REQUESTS FOR FURTHER OFFICIAL VISITS, IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO STAGE REQUESTS FOR PRIVATE VISITS IN SOME FASHION WHICH WILL AVOID PERIODIC SURGES OF APPLICATIONS.

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